

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 2923

EXDIS

DEPT PASS INFO USNMR SHAPE. TREAT AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS:PEPR, GR, CY, TU, US
SUBJ: GREEK REQUESTS FOR CLARIFICATION ON EASTERN
MEDITERRANEAN PROGRAM

REF: STATE 87921

1. THE AMBASSADOR MET WITH ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER AVEROFF THE EVENING OF APRIL 6 TO PROVIDE AVEROFF WITH OUR REACTION TO THE QUESTIONS HE HAD RAISED WITH THE AMBASSADOR ON MARCH 31 AND APRIL 2 (ATHENS 2686 AND 1701). AFTER DISCUSSING SECRETARY VANCE'S OPENING STATEMENT BEFORE THE HOUSE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE, CYPRUS, ETC. (SEPTTEL), THE AMBASSADOR AND THE MINISTER DEPARTED LEAVING POLITICAL COUNSELOR BARBIS AND MFA DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS TZOUNIS TO CONTINUE THE DISCUSSION ON THE BASIS OF THE QUESTIONS TZOUNIS HAD ASKED ON APRIL 1 (ATHENS 2702).

2. TZOUNIS REFERRED TO THE AMBASSADOR'S REMARKS (BASED
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ON PARA 2 OF REFTTEL) CONCERNING ADDITIONAL MILITARY SUPPLIES WHICH WOULD BE AVAILABLE TO TURKEY FOLLOWING THE LIFTING OF THE EMBARGO. HE SAID WE HAD NOT CLARIFIED THE QUESTION OF THE PIPELINE IN WHICH, HE UNDERSTOOD, SOME \$185 MILLION WORTH OF ARMS AND EQUIPMENT REMAINED. DRAWING ON PARA 6 OF STATE 85786, BARBIS RESPONDED THAT HE WAS NOT SURE TZOUNIS' FIGURE

WAS CORRECT SINCE HE UNDERSTOOD IT WAS NOT POSSIBLE AT THIS TIME TO INDICATE THE VALUE OF WHAT HAD BEEN FROZEN IN THE PIPELINE. WHILE TZOUNIS ACCEPTED THAT IT WAS NOT POSSIBLE FOR US TO PROVIDE HIM WITH THE INFORMATION AT THIS TIME, HE INDICATED THE GOG NEEDED PRECISE OR MORE SPECIFIC INFORMATION ABOUT THIS AND WHAT ADDITIONAL MILITARY SUPPLIES TURKEY WOULD BE RECEIVING BECAUSE HE EXPECTED THE QUESTION WOULD COME UP IN PARLIAMENT AND THE GOVERNMENT WOULD HAVE TO BE IN A POSITION TO MAKE SOME KIND OF RESPONSE.

3. COMMENT: WE GATHER FROM STATE 85786 THAT AT SOME POINT THE INFORMATION ABOUT THE PIPELINE WILL BE MADE PUBLIC. IT WOULD BE HELPFUL FOR US TO KNOW WHEN THAT MIGHT BE. IN ADDITION, WE WOULD APPRECIATE HAVING WHATEVER OTHER INFORMATION WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO PASS ON CONCERNING "ADDITIONAL" MILITARY SUPPLIES WHICH WILL BE AVAILABLE TO TURKEY. PLEASE ADVISE.

4. EMBOFF THEN PROVIDED REPLIES OR COMMENTS TO THE REMAINING QUESTIONS POSED BY TZOUNIS IN THEIR APRIL 1 MEETING (ATHENS 2702) DRAWING ON REFTEL AND PARAS 7 AND 8 OF STATE 85786. WITH RESPECT TO THE PROCEDURE FOR SUBMITTING THE CYPRUS PROPOSALS, TZOUNIS REITERATED THE GOG POSITION THAT THIS WAS A MATTER OF SUBSTANCE AND NOT PROCEDURE. HE UNDERLINED THAT THE GOG WANTS CONFIDENTIAL

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SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSIONS TO TAKE PLACE WHEN THE INTER-COMMUNAL TALKS ARE RECONVENED AND FEELS THAT THE UNSYG MUST BE MORE DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN THE NEGOTIATING PROCESS THAN HAS BEEN THE CASE HERETOFORE, WHICH IS SOMETHING HE SAID HE UNDERSTOOD WAS ALSO DESIRED BY THE USG.

5. TZOUNIS THEN INDICATED THAT THE EXPLANATION BARBIS GAVE HIM DID NOT FULLY ANSWER HIS EARLIER QUESTION AS TO WHAT THE USG INTENDED TO DO TO PERSUADE THE GOT TO BE FORTHCOMING WITH RESPECT TO CYPRUS. HE REVERTED AGAIN TO STATEMENTS HE SAID FORMER SECRETARY KISSINGER HAD MADE TO GOG OFFICIALS IN THE PAST AND SAID THE U.S. OBVIOUSLY HAD ADDITIONAL WAYS TO EXERT PRESSURE ON THE GOT FOR THIS PURPOSE (SUCH AS SLOWING DOWN DELIVERIES, DELAYING LICENSING, ETC.) AND HE HAD HOPED TO RECEIVE FROM US A MORE SPECIFIC INDICATION OF OUR INTENTIONS IN THIS RESPECT.

6. TZOUNIS REFERRED TO REMARKS MADE TO THE PRESS IN ANKARA BY CONGRESSMAN SOLARZ TO THE EFFECT PRIME MINISTER ECEVIT HAD GIVEN HIM THE

IMPRESSION THAT THE RENEGOTIATION OF THE DCA
INVOLVED "LENDING ARRANGEMENTS" FOR THE CONTINUED
USE OF OUR MILITARY FACILITIES IN TURKEY. TZOUNIS
SAID THAT HE FEARED THAT, IF THIS WAS CORRECT, BY
ITS VERY NATURE IT MEANT A MULTI-YEAR FINANCIAL COMMITMENT
WHICH WOULD RUN PARALLEL AND IN ADDITION TO
THE YEAR-BY-YEAR FMS CREDITS. BARBIS REPLIED HE
KNEW NOTHING ABOUT THIS MATTER BUT WOULD RAISE
IT WITH THE DEPARTMENT.
MCCLOSKEY

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED TO USNMR SHAPE.

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